RURAL TOPICS.

Some Practical Suggestions for Our Agricultural Readers.

B. F. J., in the Country Gentleman, says that the patent granted to Weber and Scoville, the chemists who have been so successful in sugar making at Champaign, Illinois, is simply the application of bone black alliering processes to the semi-situp after it has been del-cated by Time at boiling heat, and there after reduced in a steam coil heated tank to 25" Baume. The difficulty heretofore in making supar from sorgloran has been the gum, which has resisted every attempt at separation, and the patent covers the first successful attempt in that direction. But these chemists have also discovered another important fact in defecation. ordingy manner, is introduced to a close vessel and subjected to steam at \$22, a nearly comon the liquor and part to the exita 24° of heat, | ions briars. The birds are fond of the Lantana skill of the patentees, and that unless these | mountain slopes with a luxurant growth of chemists with complete apparatus at command. extent of country valueless until it has been sorphum smar neakers will fall hereafter, as | rooted up and burnt. hitherto, when undertaken by ordinary unskilled persons.

GRAPE-VINES UPON TREES.

Under this hending the Germantown Telegraph has the following remarks: "What folly it is to discuss the propriety of running grapevines up trees and let them run there at will, up and carefully tended during summer.

The reason for these results is easily found. All of our best varieties of grapes are more or | protection to vines which run up and through let alone curing summer make such an abundance of leaves that overlap and protect each ether, so that, although the outside leaves suffer, they protect others below, and thus enough are retained to nature a crop. But, on the other hand, when vines on tredises are constantly subjected to trimming and pruning during summer, laterals removed and branches upon the healthy action of comparatively few leaves, and if these leaves suffer injury, the growth of the plant is arrested. While all this tends to show that summer pruning of grape vines may profitably be dispensed with, it does not follow that winter pruning should be neglected. It will not matter whether vines are growing on trees or on trellises, if they are not properly winter pruned—old wood removed, weak shoots taken out, and strong growths shortened-they will soon cease to be profitable; but, this properly attended to, observation shows that vines will do better on trees than on trellises, so far as growth and fruit is concerned, but the objection as to difficulty of picking and pruning is of some account.

ACTION OF FROST.

The process of congelation is curious and in- | a higher price in the market. terrsting. It is well known that water, when frozen, is expanded, and occupies more space then it did before, and, hence, that ice is lighter | the expansion of the water while assuming the disturbance and will be protected from the solid term. This property of water, when piercing cold winds, which cause more injury of mountains. Fissures and crevices become filled with water during the summer, and its expansive power when frozen detaches masses of rocks, which will roll down to lower positions. In its more moderate and minute effects, the operation of this general law is productive of a very beneficial consequence to the farmer and gardener, for the hard clods of turned-up soil are loosened and broken into pieces by the expansion of water which they contain when frozen. The earth is pulverized and brought to a finely divided condition for receiving seed. Hence the utility of turning up strong or clay soils to be acted upon by the frosts of winter, season had its effect upon the price of oats, and complish what the natural forces can do so extension of area, so that 7 per cent, was added

CUTTING GRAFTS, &C.

cheaply and so well.

A correspondent, who signs himself W. Mantenell, but gives no further address, states that although nurserymen may find it convenient to cut their grafts just before winter and store them safely for use, he finds that it is better for farmers to cut their seions just as they need them, and that such grafts, so treated, will make a much more vigorous growth than those cut and stored during winter. He finds that gooseberry and current cuttings, when set out early in the fall, will be well-rooted plants by the following spring. Grapes, he prefers to set out just as they begin to grow. He thinks that pruning pear trees injures them for fruiting. He prefers standards to dwarfs, and what dwarfs he had have been turned into standards. He has not lost a tree from blight, and attributes this exemption to the annual dressing of salt which he applies every spring. The current worm he disposes of by sprinkling the bushes with water, in which a heaping spoonful of saltpetre has been dissolved in every two gallons used. We hope to hear from him again. Our space is so limited that we are compelled to condense many of the letters of our correspond-

USES OF OLEOMARGARINE.

At a recent meeting of the Dairymen's Association of Quebec one of the speakers is represented as making the following statement: of area. In 1880 enlarged demand brought the daily life." And with this, Aunt Helen's paper and economical food. He thought that we tisans of the opposite faction. And this is proved by what had happened at that very timate of production in 1882 is 475,656,694 To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: meeting. The sample No. 1, declared the best bushels.—From Report of Commissioner of Agriof the four samples by a competent jury, was | culture for 1882. made of milk from which the whole of the cream had been taken and replaced by an animal oil-oleomargarine. The house of Burcheese, openly and without the slightest dis-

guise, enjoys a European reputation." THE CLINTON GRAPE.

We notice the statement that "most of the grapes raised in the 2,400 acres of vineyard in Ontario, Canada, are of the Clinton variety, which does well, or best, trained horizontally overhead. They are not gathered till the leaves are brown, as a touch of frost is requisite to perfect the flavor." The Clinton grape is a valuable variety for northern climates, and when at its best state of maturity is one of the best wine grapes we possess; it is also good for table use. It is a very rank growing kind, and is frequently rendered fruitless by too close pruning. Its long annual growths, from ten to fifteen or twenty feet in length, should only be moderately shortened and tied down in a horizontal position for fruiting. In this way very heavy crops are produced.

BAMBARRA GROUND-NUTS.

This name is given to the seed pod of an African plant called Voandzeia subterranea. which is extensively cultivated by various African tribes for the sake of its esculent nuts, which ripen in the earth like those of the where it has been introduced for many years, pea-nut eaters, and not altogether useless to chocolate manufacturers.

APHIS OR GREEN PLY. Ants are very frequently seen busily running up and down trees and plants which are infested by aphia, or plant lice. These auts take charge of the lice and guard them from harm with zealous care, for which good services they are amply paid in heavy by the plant lice. The ants approach the lice, and if there is not an accumulated supply, they touch them with their antennæ by way of reminding them of heir wants, and at once the lice respond with drop of their sweet fluid. For this reason dant lice are sometimes called aut cons. It has

THE LANTANA IN AUSTRALIA. The Lantana, in its many varieties, is now a growth and flowering qualities it is describedly Some years ago Australian florists introduced the plant for originate purposes, and When the juice, after long defecated in the the dry climate of that country suited it so well that it has seeded to such an extent as to have escaped into the fields and become such a plete defectation takes place, part of which is pest that it is ranked with locusts, rabbits, marsupposed to be due to the considerable pressure | supials, burns, thistles, prickly pears and nox-From these the strappours that the successes at seeds and scatter them far and wide. In New Champaign are largely due to the inventive Caledonia it has already covered valleys and several procesure controlled by skillful almost impenetrable scrub, rendering a large

NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

Sources. Where soils are not naturally deep it is good had which is to save them during droughts.

FEEDING SHEEP. In England the system of the early fattening less subject to loss of toliage by mildew; mil- of their improved breeds of sheep is gaining dew is prevented by shelter and protection. ground. The earlier the process of fattening The foliage and branches of trees afford this commences and the sooner it is over the greater the economy in the consumption of food, although it may have to be of a richer and more expensive character. A very large number of sheep which formerly would have been kept until two years old, are now sold fat at twelve and fourteen months old at similar weights. The price of mutton of the best quality in England suffers less than any other agricultural commodity from foreign competition. The feeding of grain or oil-cake in the summer, cutneatly fied up, the success of the crop depends | ting the roots for young fatting sheep and giving a larger proportion of dry tood with turmips or other watery food, are all modern improvements in the British system of feeding CURRYING COWS.

> It is claimed by the advocates of cow curryng that it cleanses the hide of superfluous hair, keeps it active and healthful, and void of that peculiar odor so commonly found in milk and sometimes in butter; that it promotes the secretion and disposition of the putrid particles of the animal system which would otherwise be absorbed by the secretory glands and be carried off in the milk and leaves the latter not only purer, but much better, and gives promise to the butter-maker of a higher color and a purer flavor to the butter from the churn, hence.

SUGAR BEETS.

A member of the Elmira Farmers' Club says: I can raise more pounds of sugar beets to the nere than of mangels; stipulating that the ground must be very good, as mine is, and I do not find any difficulty in gathering them. Besides, sugar beets will stand drouth much better than any variety of mangels I have ever seen." THE DAT CROP.

that the low yield and high price of maize last to the breadth. On the 1st of June the condition of the crop was higher than in any previous year since 1868. The only cereal crop that did not meet with disaster last year was exceedingly thrifty at the commencement of more than an average crop. There were some reports of the army worm, aphis, and small inseels at the roots popularly described as "midgets" in Maryland and Virginia. The army

100 until harvest, i. c., the average result, happened but once in thirteen years-in 1877when the average yield per acre was 31.6 bushels, and the average value only 29.2 cents per bushel, the lowest price for thirteen years with

24.6 cents in December. The average yield from 1871 to 1881, inclusive, was 27.6 per acre, about a bushel more than the average yield of corn for the same period. averaged 36.1 cents for the same term of years. From 1875 to 1879 the annual average was below | wife knows enough of her husband's business this figure on account of good yields and increase | matters to be a help and not a millstone in his "Skim-cheese, eaten when new, is a healthy average to 36 cents, and in 1881 the scarcity of was at an end. corn advanced it to 46.4 cents. With a large should not be in a hurry to settle the question | corn crop there would have been no advance. of skim or full milk cheese. Here, again, we | The yield per acre of the present crop is above should guard against being prejudiced in favor | an average of a series of years, and the product, of one idea, and unwilling to listen to the par- | with increased area, is the largest ever harvested in this country. The preliminary es-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. rell & Whitman, makers of oleomargarine Our Agricultural Editor's Weekly Chat With His Readers.

"I put some of the bunches of my Eumelan grapes in paper bags, but the fruit did not ripen to be very good, although the covered bunches looked better than the uncovered ones. What has been the experience of others the past year?"-Alpha,

Ans.: The testimony as to the value of covering grapes is generally favorable; the fruit is somewhat retarded in ripening, but when ripe, is higher flavored, and the bunches are well colored. Those who have had the most experience in bagging, confidently recommend | ment and Cookery," and "Camp Cookery." it as the best expedient yet adopted to get | Miss Parloa says forperfect fruit.

In - ply to A. Y. Neff, Mills, Indiana, with regard to his request for information concerning German carp, we will make inquiry and advise him of the result. We think that the Orange Judd Publishing Co., New York, have recently issed a treatise on carp culture.

"Can you inform me of the origin of the 'Early Amber' sorghum ?"-E. I., Terre Haute, Indiana. Ans.: We know nothing about it except as stated in an Agricultural Department Report, well-known pea-nut or ground-nut. The plant | viz. : That it was a selected cane taken from a is abundant in many parts of South America, parcel of seed received from Paris by E. Y. Teas, of Dunreith, Indiana. This single cane and has now become naturalized. In Brazil | ripened its seed before the rest of the crop was the nuts are called Mandubi d' Angola, and in | in bloom. The seed was saved and planted so Surinam they are known by the name of as to avoid admixture with other varieties; its Sobbe. If introduced into this country, they | superior qualities were recognized, and its name

Aunt Helen's Home Talks---Our Letter-Box---Household Hints.

[Continued.]

"My last paper," resumed Aunt Helen, when the family were once more assembled around often been remarked that colonies of the lice | the library table, "was not one of mere generattended by ants thrive better and are more | alities, as may, perhaps, have appeared. Underprolific than those which the ants have not lying all contained there, was the earnest hought that it would be well if the featuresthe simplicity and naturalness of everythingwhich most forcibly impress the stranger who popular garden plant, and so far as regards enters for the first time one of those homes, might become the controlling elements in the home which is so soon to be founded by one of our number. Next week the practical work of rearing this home will begin, and in order that each of us may add a stone to its foundation. I have decided to beg a weekly Budget from the the mother in our midst; Our Sewing-room impose no epicialties, believing that the amiability of each will prompt him to east into our | serving. budget many a helpful and pleasant word.

"Emerson once tersely asked: 'Does any one care for the walls when the King is within? Now, in the home which we are about to found I think we shall give to immates and 'walls A Digest of Information Collected From Various | nearly equal importance. In every home, however, there is a central figure, round which the chief interest gathers, and from which go out practice to subsoil them. Especially is this the the most potent influences for good or evil. case where drought prevails in summer. The | This figure is the wife. That every true man instead of pruning them carefully and tying | roots or plants go deeply down in such soils, | in bestowing upon a woman that title bestows them to a trellis, as every intelligent grape and can thus sustain the plants through very the highest gift in his power no woman can grower does. One writer says that he has suc- dry seasons. The dandelien has a long tap root | deny. But we have often wondered if every ceeded admirably in getting an abundant which thus enables it to live when other less woman in receiving this title solemnly conyield of grap s by letting the vines run over favored plants die. During a recent summer's siders how she can most worthily wear it. his trees. No doubt by gets 'an abundance of drought the plant, a maisance on lawns, has at Does she think of all the sweet and graceful grapes. We did so, too, when we tried this no time during the months of absence of rain | courtesies which might gladden the days, while plan, but they become 'poorer and poorer' with | shown the least indication of dying out. It ac- | they lighten the weariness of labor and care, every succeeding year, and higher and higher | commodated itself to the conditions, and, crowd- and tighten continually the bonds of love and from the ground until they became difficult ling down into the furf, spread out its broad respect in her home? Does she think that now, and dauge rous to pick, and utterly worthless | leaves to shelter its roots, and waited in green- | for another's sake, the curb must always be tight when they were picked," Nevertheless, it has ness and screenty for "better weather." Ex- upon the old willful self, or perhaps that the often been observed that grape vines allowed | amination of these plants, at a time when the | "soft answer which turneth away wrath" to clamber unre-trained during summer over ground for a distance of three feet below the must often be given? Perhaps most wives err trees and bushes, will retain a vigorous, healthy | surface was entirely without moisture, disclosed | most in making in the very beginning of their toliage, and ripen their fruit, while branches | the interesting fact that directly around the | home life a threadbare thing of existence. from the same root trained alongside on a trel- root and under the crouching leaves there was | The minute and homely details of life are part lis would be discused, and the fruit be of but always moisture in the hottest hours of the of a woman's heritage, and because they are little value. It is also a matter of record that day. The leaves served as a mulch, preventing | inevitable they ought to be cheerfully met. wines which have been entirely neglected dur- evaporation, and the roots had pushed down to Is there any more reason why these details ing summer and allowed to grow unnotested a point for deeper than any grass roots could should be laid before the husband than before have ripened better fruit and more of it than | go. Loose ground below invites roots to pene- | the triend or lover? Men have their own pevines which have been trimmed, thinned, tied | trate it, and this is when the moisture is to be | culiar business cares, the harassments of a profession, a trade, and many have ever before them the corroding problem how to make a moderate income meet the needs of a growing family. Many men bravely keep these harassments show toward their husbands an equal generosity in all matters where complaint is useless? many a man returns to a cheeriess home, the sound of a querulous voice greets him, an unresponsive face checks the smile on his own, or represses the cherry word which he was about to utter; there is poured out to him a long list of domestic grievances, which he cannot remedy if he would; perhaps the fires are out, the lamps unfilled, the meal late, the house in disorder, the children ill-natured and in soiled clothes, the wife with disarranged hair and negligent dress. This picture is not overdrawn; many a time have we ourselves seen it, both in humble and in handsome homes. Is it any wonder that the husband and the sons | toilets. turn away with sickening hearts from their daily depressions, and that the daughters grow up to be only repetitions of the mother! The wife has her cares, serious and perplexing ones, and it would be unjust and unnatural to think | silks. of finding in her the careless gayety of the maiden. Housekeeping has its perplexities cooks are stupid or arrogant, children are fretful and often sick, domestic contingencies are continually arising, and there are times when even the most willing heart cannot force a smile to the lips, but the gentle word may al- | the æsthetic colors. ways be uttered, as the quick and bitter one may be repressed. The toilette, however simple, may be carefully arranged, the hair in order, A dry pit is very well adapted for wintering | the house tidy, and at least one room comfortbees, even though it be not wholly secure from | able-warm or cool, as the season may demand. | many of the dressiest satines. the water, and swims upon it. If a bottle | frost; the temperature will be much milder | Probably, a wife can pay a husband no more ful of water, tightly corked, be left to freeze, and more uniform than in the open air or delicate compliment than in this very matter the bottle will be broken for want of room for | cellar; the bees will be more secure from any | of the toilette. As the hour for his return approaches, let her don a fresh ruche or collar, a becoming necktie, a dainty apron, irreproachfrozen, tends every year to diminish the height | than the greatest degree of cold where the air | able cuils, or some substitute for these; let her hair be prettily arranged, and if a day at home has tempted her to retain the comfortable bed-room slippers, let these be replaced by neatly-fitting boots or slippers. More than women estimate is the value which a husband ie knows are made for his sake alone. A con- makers. venient custom is to have for these simple toilettes some pretty basque or sacque, sleeves or not, as the wearer may please; trim with eiderdown, fur, braid, lace, or some inexpensive ma-This crop in its uses is so allied with corn | terial, make double-breasted, or open and filled in with lace or illusion. These sacques always | ple, dinner toilets more elaborate, as the season brighten up a home toilette, are easily made, advances. thus saving mechanical labor in trying to ac- the increase of value stimulated in turn the and easily donned. We think that the habit which many women have of appearing at the breakfast-table with curl-papers or crimping pins cannot be too strongly reprehended. A hostess would scarcely appear thus at table before the commonest guest; why then before her husband, before whom no guest should, in the the present season, promising another large | wife's heart at least, take precedence? A wife yield. In July the promise was still good of | should preserve toward a husband that delicate | with flat-lying collars and cuffs of lace put on reserve and deference which always accompany perfect leve and reverence. This, probably, is the surest safe-guard against years of daily association under the same roof. Few women worm was injurious in West Virginia, and in | realize what a fearful test there is in unbroken Missouri the chinch bug appeared in some force. | daily intercourse. Their dearest care ought to The average of general condition kept up to be to rob this association of its almost inevitable monotony; their unceasing effort to bring | muff attached to the same at the waist line. though varying in different States, equalled in | to the hearth some new and attractive things. the aggregate a full yield for all. This has | The apathy into which husbands and wives so often sink is one of the greatest enemies to home happiness, and a little care on the part of each might make this result impossible. The true wife looks well to the ways of her the exception of 1878, when another crop of | household-she sees that the meals are regular, larger area and nearly as great a yield per acre, | the buttons sewed on, remembers that "willful and a large surplus from 1877, the price fell to | waste makes woeful want," floods the house with sunshine when the sky is clear, and brightens it with something else when the sky is dark; she has an extra plate for the ladies. husband's friend, she accepts invitations from The average price on the 1st of December has her husband, and enters into his pleasure plans as readily as she did in the lover days. A wise

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

The Kitchen-A Poet on Boiled Dinners-Fashion

I send with much pleasure a recipe for Boston brown bread: Two heaping cups of corn-meal. three cups of Graham flour, one cup of sweet milk, one cup of sour milk, one tenspoonful of soda, a little sait, and one cup of molasses. Put these ingredients into a pail; set the pail in a kettle of boiling water. Do not allow the water to stop boiling, but boil steadily three hours; then turn out and let it stand in the oven one-half hour. This is the genuine Boston brown bread, except that this is made and eaten in Greeley.
Truly, yours, Mrs. E. A. White,

Truly, yours, GREELEY, COLORADO. To this recipe, which we acknowledge with thanks, we append the recipe given by Miss Parloa, principal of the School of Cooking in Boston, and author of "The Appledore Cook Book," "First Principles of Household Manage-

Brown Bread-Take one cupful of rye meal, one of Indian meal, one of molasses, two of flour, one pint and a half of sour milk, one teaspoonful of soda, one egg, one teaspoonful of salt. Mix the dry ingredients together; dissolve the soda in two tablespoonfuls of boiling water. Add it and the milk to the molasses. Stir well, and pour on the other mixed ingredients. Beat the egg and add it. Mix thoroughly, and pour into a well-buttered tin pan that holds two quarts. Steam four hours, and then put into the oven for half an hour.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Among us this is the season of fairs, and all have been vainly trying to invent something that will be new and popular. In despair of reaching this end, we finally appeal to you. We should like especially to learn about something new that would be suitable for gentlemen, because these are might be found useful as a change of diet to was suggested from its earliness and fair color. and every once in a while exclaim, "How pretty!" pimple ulcers.

"Exquisite, isn't it?" "O, how lovely!" But their money remains in their pockets, and the pretty articles over which we've spent many a wear some hour remain in our booths. Now, if you will generously send us some hint in this our senson of perplexity, we will know no other watchword then "Long live THE TRIBUNE!" SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. ELLA F.

"F. S." sends us a pleasant letter, with this

Trifles .- One quart of flour, a pinch of salt, a lump of lard the size of a hulled walnut, the white of an egg, well beaten. Add enough water to mix well. Roll thin as a wafer; cut in strips the size of a knitting-needle, and toss into boiling lard. Do not allow them to brown.

Turnips.-Wash, peel, cut in thin slices across the grain and place in a kettle with as little rater as possible; boil from half to threequarters of an hour, or until you can easily erce them with a fork; drain well, season with salt, pepper, and butter; mash fine, and place on stove, stirring frequently until water is all dried out. Turnips are better when cooked quickly. They may be steamed, and Can any the water poured out through a clotk, then

Chicken Soup.-Cut a chicken into pieces rest of you. Our Nursery will naturally fall to and simmer it gently in a gallon of water until the meat is in rags. Skim well, strain, and repasses appropriately to Ethel; Our Table to turn the broth to the pot. Add a cupful of Tabbie, the one, of all others, to appreciate its | rice and a tablespoonful of parsely; let it simdelicacies. Upon Mr. Atherton and Teddie we mer for another hour. Season with pepper and salt; add a cupful of boiling cream just before

A POET ON BOILED DINNERS.

Harper's for February contains an interview with the poet Whittier. The old-fashioned New England beverage, cider, was mentioned, and Mr. Whittier stated that he had once derived much benefit when unwell, "when nothing tasted good," from the use of cider. Huntington suggested that without cider we should not have vinegar. "Well," said Whittier, "vinegar is not of much use, after all." "Except," replied Huntington, "to eat on cabbage and cucumbers." "Neither of which are fit to be eaten," remarked the poet. "I think it would be a good idea to start a prohibition party on those two articles. As for cabbage, it is not fit to be eaten; if you cook it in your house you ave got to burn your house down afterward to get rid of the smell; it is certainly the most iabolical smell that was ever invented," and Whittier, who was sitting near the open stove grate, upon the top of which he had deposited his tall hat, folded his hands, and laughed a hearty silent laugh. "What do you think of onions, Mr. Whittier?" asked I. "Well," he replied, "onions are not quite so bad, for you can get rid of the smell of those in three or four days." "Then," said Huntington, "you would not approve of the old-fashiond 'boiled din-ner?'" "No. I think that is a late to lead to lea I remember that my father used to have it, in which cabbage, onions, beets, potatoes, turnips and carrots were all boiled up together and turned out into a great dish all in a heap, with | horrors of that pen. a great greasy piece of meat in the middle. I think that is the reason why the present genfrom their wives, and should not the latter owing to the way the parents lived, eating so much pork and potatoes. Our last war showed as the men recruited in the cities-Portland, and they refused to volunteer in the late war unless the cities do not have the free air we get in the country," said Huntington. "I know that," replied Whittier; "but they live better, and their creed."—Subscriber, Morning Sun, Iowa. that makes a great difference." FASHION NOTES.

Fur muffs are for demi-toilet. Ottoman satines come in large flat reps. Corsage bounnets grow larger and larger.

There is a return to demi-trains for dinner Brocaded velveteen appears among spring

Ball dresses are again trimmed with flowers.

Checks and plaids will be the feature in spring

The new musling are soft finished, without

any starch or size. French crepe, white and in colors, makes ex-

quisite ball dresses. Ashes of roses has made its appearance among

Robe dresses with embroidered flounces appear among spring importations.

The transit of Venus design is one of the new patterns seen on spring satines.

Birds and fruits form a part of the design of

New satines appear in the fashionable and æsthetic colors, so popular at present.

Fur capes and collars are fastened with long ribbon strings tied in a full, flowing bow.

Large dots, circles and moons bid fair to be as popular as ever in the new spring goods.

The draperies are much bunched around the places upon these little toilette touches, which | hips and even below that point by some dress-The feature in new polka-dotted cotton dress

goods is the large size and close proximity of the dots.

Visiting and reception dresses grow more sim-

cious stones, are taking, as brooches, the lead of all others. Bodices of velvet, whether plain or brocaded

Sprays of flowers, beautifully imitated in pre-

are elegant and fashionable for afternoon, dinner and reception toilet.

over the dress collar and cuffs.

Checks, large polka dots, Greek keys, stripes and shamrock leaves are among the designs of the new satines and cambrics.

lapels extending down the front, and a small

The first spring goods that have been opened are fine Scotch and American tweeds, with

large plaids in admirable mixture of colors. The satin that forms the under dress of a will be God's will to open the eyes of our soldiers tulle ball dress may be light weight. Glace and their friends, and that they will yet rally on silk underskirts are also permissible under tulle

Sealskin hoods bordered with leopard, or Persian lambskin, or swans' down, are the favorite

cover for the head for sleighing with young to support myself and family, but I shall stick to ladies.

The Tribune as long as I live."—F. C. Wolf, Lewis-A dinner dress, whether simple and inexpen-

sive or excessively costly and elegant, should never be made in a style that would render it mistakable for a ball toilet.

For tying down the turban, hat or bonnet when sleighing, scarfs of Spanish lace, clouds of phyr, and ice wools, white or in gay colors are used when the Russian hood is not worn.

Going to School. [By Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster.] There's an army that musters its legions,

And marches to roll-eall each day: And happy and blest are the regions Which lie in that army's bright way. They troop over hillock and hollow, They spring across brooklet and pool. And gayly and cheerily follow The summons which bids them to school. By thousands the army is numbered,

Its soldiers are fresh as the morn; Not one is by sorrow encumbered, Not one is by care overborne. At decimals sometimes they stumble, And sometimes by verbs are perplexed; And the proudest grows saddened and humbled When a question is passed to the next.

The hour that play-time is done, Resplendent in love and in beauty, Unmatched 'neath the light of the sum. They gather, this wonderful army, In field and in grove and in street; Their voices are music to charm me, So ringing and eager and sweet. Their cheeks are as red as a cherry, Their eyes are as pure as the day,

But forgot at the briefest vacation

The grief of the stern conjugation,

And the army goes back to its duty

Are problems and puzzles and prose,

That late was a fountain of woes;

And the sound of their marching is merry, Wherever they pass on their way. There are people forever a-sighing And saying the world is all wrong; But somehow their doubts take to flying At sight of this wonderful throng. The world may be clouded and weary, Of trouble and toil may be full, But at least there is hope where the cheery

Dear children are going to school. Harper's Young People. "Golden Medical Discovery" (words registered as a trade-mark) cures all humors from pimple or eruption to great virulent eating

A Glance at the Contents of The Tribune's Mail.

"Enclosed please find one dollar to renew my subscription. I feel thankful that there is such a paper in the world as THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. We ook for it as we do for our daily bread. In one of Grand Army. your recent numbers I notice an allusion to Tyler prison, by one of your correspondents. I was confined there myself, and remember very well how the prisoners managed to escape in a dirt cart. I would like to know the address of Tom Feason, formerly of Bradford, England. He was taken prisoner at Sabine Pass, and it has occurred to me

Hard Should like to know the address of Tom Feason, I am not working for premiums, but that The Tribune may live. I wish you would look up Beck's pay-roll, and see if he has not drawn more hat perhaps some of your subscribers might know his address. I want to return his kindness to me while I was a prisoner."—S. John Bywater, Mazo

Can any of our subscribers furnish the desired address? Or, must we call the roll of Tyler prison survivors? It isn't as long as it | the men who preserved the Union which he used to be-make a note of that, Senator Beck.

"I guarded rebel prisoners at Camp Douglass, Chicago, from January I, 1864, until some time in May, 1865, and I think I know something of the treatment which they received. They certainly came out fatter than they went in, and enjoyed better health than the majority of those who were

guarding them."-Alonzo Gittings, Chilhoure, Mo. Yes, and that is why the Confederates were always so ready to agree to an exchange of prisoners. They sent us skeletons, and we returned them able-bodied men.

"I have been a reader of your paper ever since the Union Veteran was merged with it. I think it is the best soldier's paper that I ever read. I was for three months a prisoner at Lynchburg and Belle Isle, and should these lines meet the eye of any of my comrades who served with me in prison, or any member of my company (Co. I, Twenty-ninth Ohio volunteers) I should like to hear from them."-John Rutt, Dowagiae, Michigan.

THE TRIBUNE has proved of great service in bringing together old comrades, and those who desire to obtain the addresses of their old companions-in-arms cannot do better than advertise in its columns under the head of "Addresses Wanted."

"I wish I could persuade every ex-soldier in the country to take The Tribune. For my part, I shall discard all other papers rather than it, for I know it will continue to fight our battles until the last old wreck gets his just due. As for such men as Senator Beck let them howl. What does it matter? If they had to go to the front and face the music as we did twenty years ago they would soon change | Another Collection of Newspaper Attacks on their tune. Can you tell me where I can get a pic ture of Andersonville prison and price of the same?"-Jacob Jones, Iuka, Illinois,

Write to Comrade Felix La Baume, Chicago, Ill. He publishes a sketch of the interior of the prison, but no pencil can do justice to the

"Blake Post, No. 114, was organized at this place on December 22d with twenty-two members. We opposed to secret societies, but only one violentlythe Reformed Presbyterian, better known as cove-Portsmouth and Boston." "But the people in | threatened by draft. They cannot hold office because they will not take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States. I cannot find

> These people have a right to their opinionsand you to yours. Stand up for your convictions. There are almost as many creeds as there are blades of grass, but only one Star whole religion in itself.

> "In these days of party disruptions it is a great relief to see the harmony existing among ex-sol diers, and I honestly think THE TRIBUNE is entitled to much credit for this harmony. You are certainly doing a grand and good work, and I do not see how one soldier can afford to do without THE TRIBUNE. -Alexander Leeds, Grafton, West Virginia.

> What is the growth or decay of parties compared to the prosperity or poverty of the soldier? THE TRIBUNE cares nothing for the spoils of office-it is the recognition of soldier's rights that it is battling for.

> "I am now an aged man, a cripple for life, and have been seeking a pension with an honest conviction that I deserve one. I managed to save a few dollars from my humble avocation, and spent it in trying to obtain that which I know is mine in the true sense of justice. I implore Congress to legislate in such a way that we poor soldiers may be treated as well as the bondholders. The testimony furnished in my case satisfies the Pension Bureau. What, then, is the cause of the delay in settling it? My case is certainly a deserving one, yet all the encouragement I receive is that it has not yet been reached."—Wm.Seven, Detroit, Ill. Patience! "The mills of the gods turn slowly,

> but they grind exceeding fine," and you will yet get your grist. The House has just apapropriated \$86,000,000 for pensions, and Commissioner Dudley will soon expedite the settlement of claims in his Bureau.

"Of course I think it would be just to give our one-legged and one-arm veterans \$40 per month, but is it fair that the soldier's widow and orphan should only receive \$8? I am getting old and feeble and have almost lost the use of my left arm on account of being forced to do out-door work, which I would not have been obliged to do had my usband lived. I have only one daughter left, who, by hard work, obtained enough education to teach The salary which she receives is not enough to keep the grim wolf-poverty-from the door, and I ask my brother soldiers to petition Congress in the interest of the widows and orphans of their former comrades."-Mrs. Letty Blair, Bon-

Yours is certainly a trying lot, but think of the thousands of applicants for pensions who as yet have not received one penny from the Sleeves and the collars of dresses are trimmed | Government!

> "I send you \$2 to renew my own subscription and pay for sending a copy to one of my com-rades. We mean to have a Grand Army Post here soon, and you can look for more subscribers." —L. B. Colburn, Emmettsburg, Iowa.

This is the "good old story"—the circulation A pretty novelty in furs is the collar with of THE TRIBUNE and the membership of the Grand Army growing hand in hand.

"It is too bad that I am compelled to lie here in my room and am not able to leave my bed half the time. I cannot but shed tears at the thought that I am not able to go out and recruit regiments-yes even a whole army-for THE TRIBUNE. I hope it masse to its support. Now is the time, comrades. Don't put it off any longer, or it may be too late; and when election time comes around be sure you make your votes tell. I am not able to do an hour's work in a year, and am dependent on the eight dollars a month which I receive from the Government

Yes, we'll rally round the Flag, boys, we'll rally An appeal like this ought to touch every comrade's heart, for it evidently comes from

"I saw in THE TRIBUNE the other day reference to the large number of members of one family who had enlisted in the war, and I thought you might like to have our own family record. It is as follows: John Kline, killed at the battle of the Wilderness; George Kline, shot in both legs at the same battle Jacob L. Kline, died at Annapolis; Joel Kline wounded at North Anna River; Reuben Kline, wounded at North Anna River and leg amputated above the knee; Daniel Kline, returned home safe, and the writer, who was wounded at the Wilderness in the left leg."-Charles Kline, Forest Hill, Pennsylvania.

This is indeed a noble record for a single family. Yet it is only one of many such. When Lincoln called for "three hundred thousand more" our veterans did not stop to consider whether or not the Government would keep its promises. They took that for granted.

"Your reference to Dan Voorhees made me feel as I used to when we got the rebels on the run. God bless his tall, manly form and sandy mustache I am an old time Republican, but I am for the tall sycamore and all other friends of the soldier. I am one of seven brothers who served in the Union army."-C. Y. Jones, Clinton, Illinois.

Shake on that, comrade; Senator Voorhees deserves all the praise you heap upon him. He can be depended on to stand by our veterans through thick and thin.

"To wish you a happy New Year in a substantial form I send you this dollar for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. It has quite an interesting history. When we were decorating our Christmas tree the question arose as to what we should put on it for 'Papa.' It was solved by Master Willie (a born soldier) exclaiming, "Oh, let's hang up for him the money for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE," and in due time, from a conspicuous bough of the Cristmas tree was suspended an envelope bearing the inscription, 'Col. Wm. A. Cutler-from Santa Claus.' My husband participated in twenty-eight battles of the war, and shortly before its close received a colonel's commission; but, alas, while he escaped the enemy's shot and shell, the seeds of disease were sown in his system, and he is now almost totally deaf. Kind editor, try to imagine what it means to be deaf in a world like ours, at a time like this-shut out from all opportunities which ear can give to do or to be-then think of a grateful Nation showing her appreciation of said service and sacrifice as his

ans W. Cutler, Natick, Mass. It is hard; but, as you may have noticed in

our report of Congressional proceedings week before last, the House has passed a bill to do justice to such of our veterans as are blind or

"I am chaplain of James B. Morris Post, No. 46, and at our regular meeting last night the principal topic of discussion was THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. The universal remark was, 'Oh, isn't it good-I wouldn't be without it,'"-D. H. Wortman, Long

Branch, N. J. We hope the topic will not become threadbare. THE TRIBUNE is not receiving the support which it deserves from our comrades of the

"I enclose another silver bullet for Senator Beck in the shape of a new subscriber. This makes my fifth shot at the enemy, and I have more in reserve. money from the United States Treasury for his treason than any soldier did for helping to whip his class back into pretended loyalty."—D. C. Philips, Rockville, Wis

Mr. Beck took his seat March 5, 1877, and has therefore drawn about \$30,000 for abusing wanted destroyed.

"THE NATIONAL TEIBUNE is undoubtedly the biggest gun the soldier ever had, and I hope the dear old gunner will be found at his post until the last foe has fled."-Newton J. Murrel, Lee Valley,

That he will. He belongs to the old guard that dies, but never surrenders.

"Mrs. Sarah Cady is in her sixty-ninth year. She is a good wool spinner, and has spun enough wool to buy a calico dress, but she has concluded to do without the dress for a while and subscribe for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE instead, so here is the money.' Subscriber, Ulysses, Penn.

A tribute like this to the worth of THE TRIBUNE is certainly worth printing. We can count upon the support of the ladies every time.

"I am in favor of the \$40 bill, but there are other pensioners whose cases I hope will not be forgotten, namely, those who suffer from total deafness in both ears. I would be glad to have you say through the columns of THE TRIBUNE what you think of an nerease of pensions for total deafness."-L. C.

If Comrade Ward will turn to our report of the proceedings of the House of Representatives in our issue of the 18th ult., he will see that a bill to do justice to this class of pensioners

THE HUE AND CRY.

the Soldier.

Sending Pension Applicants to the Courts. [From the Philadelphia Times.]

Almost any change in the pension laws must be to their improvement, but a measure that looks to the abandonment of the special agents in this de-partment will be especially gratifying to those who have given the subject any attention. Ever since eration is not so strong as the former. It is have four churches in this town, two of which are the present system has been in operation the one commanding abuse has been found in the special agents. Not only has the cost of the service been that. The farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution, if the farmers were not nearly as strong because the name of God is not in the Constitution. been a prolific source of suspicion, if not of actual on account of the lax and irregular methods of conducting the examinations committed by the laws to these officials. Information comes from Washington that ex-Governor Curtin will propose a plan at an early date which will remedy the abuses involved. His plan is to vest in the local courts jurisdiction to investigate the claims, thus removing the matter from the influences of politics or personal consideration and throwing about it the security of judicial impartiality. Of course, objection will be made to this system that it will increase the burdens of the local courts, but the hope Spangled Banner, and fidelity to that flag is a that justice will be subserved, the pension frauds prevented, and the deserving pensioners protected in their rights, will amply compensate for the increased labor to the courts.

Another Monstrous Pension Job. [From the N. Y. Sun.]

By the strong vote of 157 yeas to 62 navs the House on Monday set apart a day for the considera-tion of the bill which gives to every surviving soldier or sailor of the Mexican war, and to every survivor of the Creek, Seminole, and other Indian hostilities preceding the Mexican war, a pension of \$8 a month

This measure has been for several years before Congress seeking recognition, but has been put off from session to session, until more urgent pension jobs should be pushed to success.

The establishment of the principle on which this bill is founded would fasten a terrible burden upon the finances of the country. No one questions the propriety of pensioning the soldiers and sailors who were maimed or made permanent invalids, as well as the needy dependents of those who died in the discharge of their duty. But to put upon the pension rolls all who were in service, even if they never smelt gunpowder, is an entirely different

Opposed to Soldiers' Orphans' Schools. [From the Philadelphia Times.]

It is now eighteen years since the close of the war, and the exceptionally beneficent system of educating the soldiers' orphans as the wards of the State has more than completed its mission, but the Soldiers' Orphans' schools are yet in existence, and why? It cannot be pretended that the fullest purpose of the care of the soldiers' orphans has not been fulfilled, but what was founded as a system of most generous justice has degenerated into a system of dishonoring mendicancy, and the demand is now made that the orphans' schools shall be continued five years longer. To do so would be a double wrong-a wrong to the State and a wrong to her soldiers. It would be a public degradation of the descendants of our soldiers to pauperism, and there can be no plausible excuse for such public expenditure, twenty or twenty-five years after the war has ended and the fathers of the orphans presumably dead.

Editor Watterson's Dirty Fling.

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal.] The ways of the pension claim agent are dark and obvious. It is now proposed to pay every person who lost an eye in the army or navy during the civil war a pension of \$15 a month. If the injured person thinks his other eye has been in any way affected by the loss of the first the pension is to be increased to \$25 a month. It is easy to see how the claim agents will increase the pension list with such cases. They will get hold of all of the one-eyed men they can find, provide them with fraudulent papers and put them through, and pocket fifty per cent, or more of the proceeds themselves.

Sarcasm or Stupidity? [From the Philadelphia Times.]

The Senate Committeee on Pensions is inclined to draw the line a little tighter in order to close the gap in the Treasury for a time. It did this yesterday by reporting adversely the House bill to increase the pensions to one-armed and one-legged soldiers. If this kind of policy is carried out it may turn out after all that there is a man somewhere in the United States who cannot get a pension.

> SONGS OF THE CAMP. The Battle Cry of Freedom.

once again,

Shouting the battle cry of freedom! We will rally from the hill-side, we'll gather from Shouting the battle cry of freedom! CHORUS. The Union forever! hurrah! boys, hurrah! Down with the traitors, up with the stars?

While we rally round the flag, boys, rally once Shouting the battle cry of freedom! We are springing to the call of our brothers gene before, Shouting the battle ery of freedom!

And we'll fill the vacant ranks with a million free men more, Shouting the battle cry of freedom! We will welcome to our numbers the loyal, true

and brave, Shouting the battle cry of freedom! And although he may be poor, he shall never be a Shouting the battle cry of freedom!

So, we're springing to the call from the East and from the West, Shouting the battle cry of freedom! And we'll hurl the rebel crew from the land we

Shouting the battle cry of freedom! General Sheridan's Tapestry.

tapestry, chiefly high-warp Gobelins, made between 1663 and 1690, at the time when the art was in revival. Originally there were eleven pieces in the set, of which Sheridan owns four, the rest being in the famous collection of the Garde Meuble, in Paris. The subjects are taken

from different periods in the life of Alexander

the Great. The hangings are each about 18

feet high by 20 feet long, and remarkably well

preserved. The General has loaned his treas-

General Sheridan owns some magnificent

ures for a charity fair in Chicago. A Good Friend to the Chinese. SAN FRANCISCO.-Consul A. F. Bee, of the

Chinese Consulate Office, expresses himself clearly in saying that he, as well as his family, have suffered severely from rheumatism and neuralgia, and that medicines were used in vain. At last St. Jacobs Oil was tried, which by a pension of only ten dollars per month."-Julieffected immediate cures in every case. The Consul regards the Oil as the greatest pain curing remedy in existence.